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BEDWAS AND MACHEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Public Health Inspector

FOR THE

Year Ended 31st December, 1962

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BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

YEAR 1962.

Chairman .... Councillor F. C. Dudden
Vice-Chairman .... Councillor G. Phillips

Members :-

Councillor	Mrs. S. J. Graham	Councillor	A. E. Gameson
,,	H. O. Curtis	,,	H. Gibbon
,,	F. Phipps	,,	A. J. James
,,	H. Ludlow	,,	L. Vaughan
,,	S. G. Lewis	,,	C. Williams
,,	G. Beeston, M.B.E., J.P., M.A.		
,,	G. Evans	,,	E. V. Matthews
,,	W. H. Perrin		

Officers :-

Clerk of the Council .... W. Ewart Morgan
Medical Officer of Health .... K. P. Giles, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Engineer and Surveyor .... R. Ruttley
Chief Financial Officer .... R. Humphreys, A.C.I.S.
Public Health Inspector .... H. R. Sulway, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector .... I. Jones, M.A.P.H.I.
Bankers .... Co-operative Wholesale Society

COUNCIL OFFICES,

BEDWAS.

July, 1963.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Graham, and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1962.

STATISTICS RELATING TO THE URBAN DISTRICT

Approximate area of the district	6,200 acres
Population (Census 1961)	10,230
Population (Estimated mid-June 1962)	10,310
Rateable value (1962)	£67,461
Rate in the £ levied 1962	£1 11 0d.
Product of the Penny Rate	£258

The population figures are still on the increase and the Census 1951 figure of 8,712 shows an increase in population of 1,598 in 11 years, an average yearly increase of 145.

If this rate of expanding population figures continues the local authority cannot afford to relax its building programme to previde the necessary homes for the people.

The Council have concentrated on the provision of two-bedroom flats to accommodate the people but this may cause quite a problem in the future when the present occupants increase the size of families so as to create overcrowding, especially where the separation of the sexes is to be taken into consideration.

BIRTH RATE

LIVE BIRTHS	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	103	107	210
Illigitimate	3	4	7
TOTAL	106	111	217

Birth Rate per Thousand of the population

Bedwas and Machen U.D.C.	20.07
County of Monmouth	17.99

STILL BIRTHS

The total number of still-births during the year were :-

1 Male and 1 Female

Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births :-

Bedwas and Machen U.D.C.	9.13
County of Monmouth	25.64

INFANT MORTALITY

Total Number of deaths of children under 1 year of age

6 Males and 4 Females

Age Group	Male	Female
Under 1 week of age	5	0
Under 4 weeks of age	5	1
Over 4 weeks of age	1	3

INFANT MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS :-

Bedwas and Machen U.D.C.	46.08
County of Monmouth	25.02

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Number of Maternal Deaths .... NIL

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
Cancer (Stomach)	1	3	4
Cancer (Lung)	3	2	5
Cancer (Breast)	1	1	2
Othe malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	3	8
Infective and parasitic diseases	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm (Uterus)	0	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	11	17
Coronary disease, angina	20	8	28
Hypertension with heart disease	0	1	1
Other Heart disease	2	7	9
Other circulatory disease	1	2	3
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Bronchitis	5	5	10
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
Congenital malformations	1	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	1	9
Accidents	1	1	2
TOTAL	59	53	112

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION

Bedwas and Machen U.D. 10.86
County of Monmouth 13.67

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

This year has again been remarkably free as regards infectious diseases notifications sent in by local practitioners and institutions. The total number of notifications was a very low figure of 31.

The cases notified and classified in Ward Incidence are as follows :-

Ward	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Tuberculosis
Maesycwmmer	0	1	0	4	0
Bedwas	9	0	1	0	2
Trethomas	4	0	1	0	0
Machen	7	0	0	0	2
Total	20	1	2	4	4

TUBERCULOSIS

There were no deaths from tuberculosis notified during the year and the new cases received were in the following age groups :-

	Males	Females
25 to 35 years	2	0
Over 55 years	1	1

The total of 4 cases reported were of the Pulmonary tuberculosis type.

The continued low figures of the occurrence of tuberculosis in the district are a source of satisfaction as in 1951, 12 cases of the disease were notified and 5 deaths were recorded.

HOUSING

The provision of Council-owned houses for the people who are anxiously waiting for accommodation continues steadily but the list of applications for houses seems to be added to daily.

The new dwellings provided during the year and occupied on the 31st of December are as follows :-

Council-owned houses	60
Privately-owned houses	 5

A comparison with the 1961 buiding proframme shows that the provision of local authority houses has been doubled as the figure then was 30 houses.

The number of separate dwellings owned by the local authority and tenanted on the 31st December is as follows :-

Temporary (aluminium bungalows)	50
Permanent	1106
TOTAL	1156

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Applications for Improvement Grants were received during the year and again wholly from owner-occupied houses. Owners of tenanted houses seem loth to avail themselves of the grants to provide the amenties to improve the living conditions of tenanted houses.

In these days a bath, hot water supply, etc., should be an essential amenity in every house where it is possible to install them, whether or not the house is owner-occupied.

The following is the number and cost of the Grants made with a comparison for the year 1961 :-

STANDARD GRANTS

	1961	1962
Number of Standard Improvement Grants	21	16
Amount of Standard Improvement Grants.....	£2,504	£1,540
Number of Discretionary Grants	3	2
Amount of Discretionary Grants	£584	£586

IMPROVEMENT LOANS

Number of Improvement Loans	4	2
Amount of Improvement Loans	£1117	£729

I am,

Your obedient servant,

K. P. GILES,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

COUNCIL OFFICES,

BEDWAS.

July, 1963.

To :-

The Chairman and Members of the
Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Graham and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1962.

NOTICES SERVED

1. **Public Health Act, 1936 (Sections 92 and 93)**
   (Abatement of Nuisances : Repairs to Properties)
   Preliminary Notices and Letters 215
   Abatement Notice..... 1

2. **Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 269)**
   (Moveable Dwellings)
   Preliminary Notices and Letters 9

3. **Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 44)**
   (Closet Accommodation)
   Preliminary Notices and Letters 12

4. **Public Health Act, 1961 (Section 34)**
   (Accumulation of Rubbish)
   Preliminary Notices and Letters 23

HOUSING

Again I re-iterate my remarks made in my 1961 Annual Report regarding the reluctance of owners of houses let to tenants to avail themselves of the Improvement Grants.

A large percentage of the houses in the area can be improved and I have stressed this upon every owner of property, where I am of the opinion that the necessary improvements can be installed.

Maybe future legislation may enforce the installation of these very necessary amenities and I can only hope that this will come to pass.

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

No action was taken during the year with regard to Clearance Areas

Houses Demolished (Not in Clearance Areas)	7
Houses still standing and subject to Demolition or Closing Orders	10
Number of above houses still occupied	2
Number of Houses dealt with other than in Clearance areas	NIL

UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

After informal action by Local Authority	59	NIL
After formal notice under Public Health Act, 1.	1	NIL

RENT ACT, 1957

No applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair.

COUNCIL HOUSES

Inspections were made of the houses on the cessation and exchange of tenancies in company with a member of the Engineer's department.

Number of visits and re-visits made 53

The usual visits were made to houses at intervals to ascertain the cleanliness of the premises.

Number of visits and re-visits for this purpose ... .32

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total notifications of infectious diseases received during the year was only 31 cases and no case of food was recieved.

The usual disinfectants were supplied, where necessary, to the homes of the patients for the further prevention of the spread of infection.

WATER SUPPLIES

The Bedwas and Machen Council is a constituent member of the Rhymney Valley Water Board and with the exception of a few premises, such as farms in the outlying areas, all dwellings receive a satisfactory and ample water supply, from the public main.

Number of samples taken from the public supplies was 22 and all were satisfactory.

Samples taken of other water numbered 6 which were satisfactory.

DRAINS AND SEWERS

Surface water drains are discharged into the River Rhymney which river, is the boundary of the Western side of the district.

No gross pollution of the river is caused by any effluent of industry from the Bedwas and Machen area.

Soil drains and sewers are discharged into the main trunk sewer controlled by the Rhymney Valley Sewerage Board of which the Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council is a constituent member.

SWIMMING BATHS

One privately owned swimming bath is situated in the Maesycwmmer Ward.

Samples of the water used for bathing were taken and submitted for analysis and the reports were that the water was fit for bathing purposes.

Again I have to report that during the close season for bathing, damage to fencing and buildings of the bath has been done by irresponsible persons and if this continues it will eventually render the premises unfit for bathing purposes unless extensive repairs are carried out.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Daily recordings of smoke pollution have been taken and the results have been submitted to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research at the end of every month.

The number of stations in this area is two, one at Bedwas School Canteen and one at Tynywen Schools, Trethomas.

Each station has been visited daily, and apart from electrical breakdowns, smoke stains have been collected and dispatched for reading by reflectometer to the County Council.

I wish to record my thanks to the County Public Health Inspector for carrying out the readings of the smoke stains submitted to him.

The Council is also a participant in the County Radio Active Fall-out Supervision Scheme whereby samples of air, drinking water rainwater, sewage effluent and bulked milk supplies, are regularly taken and submitted for analysis to ascertain their radio activity.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of household refuse is carried out during the year and the continued provision of uniform dustbins to each dwelling has eased the work of the dustmen considerably and also prevented the unsightly appearence of the streets and lanes on the days of collection. However the problem of the disposal of refuse is becoming acute and fresh avenues will have to be explored for the hygienic and most economic disposal of the refuse.

Having regard to the present method of uncontrolled tipping at the Fountain Bridge Tip and the Council's proposeddevelopement of a considerable housing site in close proximity, it is more than likely that nuisances will arise from the fumes of refuse and its infestation of rats and other insects, and thereby affect the tenants of the proposed housing site.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Number of shops in which assistants employed	8
Number of other food shops	33
Number of cafes	4
Number of fish frying shops	3

Food Shops Registered Under Food and Drugs Act.

(*a*)	Manufacture of Sausages and Cooked meats	8
(*b*)	Sale of Ice-cream	28
(*c*)	Sale and Manufacture of Ice-cream	1

Constant supervision is maintained over the premises where foodstuffs are stored, manufactured or sold and advice on any problem which may arise is freely offered with regard to the compliance of the persons concerned with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Summary of Foodstuffs Surrendered and Condemned

	Number
Cans of various fruits and vegetables	245
Canned Meats	58
Canned fish and pastes	41
Canned Soups	18
Bacon and Ham trimmings	54 lbs
Sausages and Meat pies	22lbs

CAFES, CANTEENS and LICENSED PREMISES

Visits were made to all the cafes, canteens and licensed premises in the area and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness and hygiene continues to be maintained.

HAIRDRESSING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are 12 registered hairdressing establishments in the district which on inspections have maintained a satisfactory state of cleanliness etc., according to the Byelaws governing this profession.

MEAT INSPECTION

There are three privately owned slaughtering establishments in the district.

In the largest slaughterhouse your Additional Public Health Inspector is employed full time on meat inspection and in the remaining two smaller premises, the meat inspection is carried out by myself.

As there is no Regulation whereby the times and days of slaughtering are controlled by the local authority the inspection of the carcases are carried out on Sundays and on many occasions after office times during the week in order to ensure a one hundred per cent meat inspection.

Difficulties have arisen when holidays and sickness have to be catered for and occasionally help is given by neighbouring authorities for which I take this occasion to thank them.

It is envisaged when new Meat Inspection Regulations are made that all meat inspected must be stamped by the meat inspector before removal from the place of slaughter and provision will have to be made for deputising your meat inspectors on occasions as outlined above.

Statistics relating to the slaughtering and inspection of animals for human consumption at the three establishments in the district are as follows :-

From the 1st April, 1962 to 30th March, 1963

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total Units
Number slaughtered	3,267	177	7,465	35,015	103,808
Number inspected	3,267	177	7,465	35,015	103,808

CARCASES CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR PART
affected with disease or condition other than Tuberculosis

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
Whole carcases condemned	NIL	2	11	6
Carcases of which part or organ condemned	1,280	2	465	362
Percentage affected	39.12	2.26	6.37	1.20

CARCASES AFFECTED WITH TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
Whole carcases condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Carcases of which part or organ condemned	NIL	NIL	384	NIL
Percentage affected	NIL	NIL	5.14	NIL

Cystercercosis

4 carcases of beef were affected with cystercercosis : none were generalised and the affected carcases were submitted for cold storage treatment.

Percentage affected 0.12

An approximate total of meat and edible offals condemned during the year amounted to 12 tons. 5 cwts. 46 lbs.

PEST CONTROL AND RODENT INFESTATION

The authority employs one Rodent Operator who is fully occupied with the inspections of the different premises and farms in the district.

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out during the year treatments of the river banks in the built up areas were again carried out.

Special attention is paid to the inspection and treatment of the refuse tips and other potential reservoirs of rats.

The following is a brief summary of the work carried out during the year :-

PEST CONTROL AND RODENT INFESTATION

	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwell'g Houses	(3) Other Premises	(4) Total of 1, 2 and 3	(5) Agricultural
No. of properties in district	8	2,954	277	3,239	42
Properties inspected as result of Notification	NIL	31	NIL	31	1
No. of properties found infested by :—					
Rats Major	NIL	1	NIL	1	NIL
Minor.	NIL	15	NIL	15	NIL
Mice Major	NIL	4	NIL	4	NIL
Minor	NIL	6	NIL	6	NIL
Properties inspected in course of survey under the Act.	8	1,562	216	1,786	40
Properties found infested by :—					
Rats. Major.	1	NIL	NIL	1	NIL
Minor	1	156	3	160	5
Mice. Major.	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Minor.	1	21	4	26	NIL
Other properties Found Infested					
Rats (Major)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(Minor)	NIL	6	NIL	6	NIL
Mice (Major)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(Minor)	1	2	NIL	3	NIL
Total inspections carried out	16	1,831	232	2,079	42
Infested properties treated by local authority	4	211	7	222	6
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	6	246	7	259	NIL

No action taken under Section 4 of the Act.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

The usual visits were made to the premises and workplaces in accordance with the provisions laid down in the factories Acts.

There are no large and extensive factories in the district apart from the British Benzol Coal Distillation Plant situated in the Trethomas Ward.

Again I wish to record my thanks to my colleagues in the office for supplying information recorded in this report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. R. SULWAY,

Public Health Inspector

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health (Including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

PREMISES	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 4, and 6 are cnforced by local authority.....	8	14	3
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by local Authority	4	6	1
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority	5	8	NIL

2. **Cases in which defects were found :**

PARTICULARS	Defects Found	Defects remedied
Section 1. Cleanliness	3	3
Sections 5 and 7 Lighting and Provision of Sanitary accommodation	1	1

There are no Outworkers in the District.